



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, April 29, 2002

CONTACT: Jeff Neal
202/224-6167

CHAFEE HAILS MULTI-BILLION RAYTHEON CONTRACT

Contract to Design Next Generation Ships Good for RI Jobs

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Navy today awarded a \$2.8 billion contract to a group led by Raytheon to build the Navy's next generation surface combat ship. This afternoon, Senator Lincoln D. Chafee noted the importance of this contract to Rhode Island and to America.

"Winning this contract is a tremendously important achievement for Raytheon and its 1400 Rhode Island employees," Chafee said. "The new DD-X platform of warships will ensure that the United States maintains and expands its technical edge in naval warfare capabilities. I'm proud that the citizens of Rhode Island, as well as the entire New England region, will play such an important role in ensure our common defense for decades to come."

The DD-X fleet is expected to include smaller cruisers known as CG-X as well as combat ships that can work in "littoral" seas -- shallow, island-strewn waters near coastlines where some Navy officials believe future conflicts most likely will occur. The DD-X will be developed over the next four years and enter service in 2011.

While this \$2,879,347,000 contract is for initial design work, it is estimated that the Navy will spend \$70 to \$100 billion on DD-X ships over the coming years. Sixteen percent of the design work is expected to be performed in Portsmouth, Rhode Island. Raytheon officials predict that the contract will bring job stability and job growth, as Raytheon hires additional technicians to perform DD-X related work.

###